

CLAIMS

[0033] What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A suture anchor, comprising:

an anchor body having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a suture loop disposed completely within the anchor body.

2. The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the suture anchor has a predetermined length and wherein the suture loop is recessed from the proximal end of the anchor body by about one third of the predetermined length.

3. The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the anchor body is provided with a drive socket at the proximal end.

4. The suture anchor of claim 4, wherein the drive socket has at least one slot for receiving a corresponding protrusions on a driver head for driving the suture anchor.

5. The suture anchor of claim 5, wherein the slot terminates distally in a suture hole provided within the anchor body.

6. The suture anchor of claim 6, wherein the suture hole is transverse to a longitudinal axis of the anchor body.

7. The suture anchor of claim 1, further comprising a strand of a knot tying suture threaded through the suture loop.

8. The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the anchor body is threaded from the proximal end to the distal end.

9. The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the anchor body has a constant outer diameter and a tapered inner diameter.
10. The suture anchor of claim 9, where the taper of the inner diameter is a stepped taper.
11. An insert-molded suture anchor, comprising:
 - an anchor body having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end, the anchor body being threaded between the proximal end and the distal end;
 - a drive socket provided at the proximal end; and
 - a suture loop disposed completely within the anchor body, the suture loop being insert-molded into the anchor body.
12. The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 11, wherein the suture loop is recessed from the proximal end of the anchor body by about one third the length of the anchor body.
13. The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 11, wherein the drive socket has at least one slot for receiving a correspondingly shaped protrusion on a driver.
14. The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 11, wherein the anchor thread extending between the proximal end and the distal end of the body has a crest which tapers from wide to narrow from the proximal end to the distal end of the body.
15. The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 11, further comprising a strand of a knot tying suture threaded through the suture loop.

16. The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 13, wherein the anchor body is threaded.
17. The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 11, wherein the threaded anchor body has a substantially constant outer diameter and a tapered inner diameter.
18. The insert-molded suture anchor of claim 17, wherein the taper of the inner diameter is a stepped taper.